

Smoking in PUBLIC PLACES

A CONSULTATION ON REDUCING EXPOSURE
TO SECOND HAND SMOKE

Report of a Youth Consultation



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

This report has been produced in support of a *Consultation on Reducing Exposure to Second-Hand Smoke*. The other related publications, which may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/health/smipp-00.asp>, comprise:

- Key Findings of Responses to a Public Consultation
- Key Findings from Focus Group Research
- Report of Regional and Area Events
- Report of a National Conference
- Report of an Omnibus Survey
- Evidence Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Youth Consultation on Smoking in Public Places run by Young Scot collected the views of **over 4000 young people** across Scotland. The results of the consultation clearly show that smoking is an issue which many young people feel strongly about.

This report details the outcome, and detailed feedback from young people collected throughout the consultation. Key findings from the consultation show that:

Consultation collected a total of 4,037 responses from young people across Scotland!

64%* of young people in Scotland believe that smoking in public places should be banned!

66%* of young people in Scotland believe that there should be some places where smoking is allowed!

75%* of young people in Scotland believe more needs to be done to reduce the affects of second-hand smoke!

*For accuracy please note that this figure is calculated using the results of fully completed surveys, and not the results from every response collected during the consultation, as not all data could be collated into one figure.

INTRODUCTION

This report is an analysis of the comments received during the Youth Consultation on Smoking in Public Places run by Young Scot on behalf of NHS Health Scotland. The consultation was launched on 15th June 2004 by Deputy Minister for Health, Tom McCabe MSP, and ran until 30th September 2004, allowing over 3000 young people around Scotland the opportunity to express their views on smoking in public places.

The national dimension of the consultation was based around Young Scot's national web portal, while the local consultation dimension was run using Young Scot's new consultation framework and toolkit, called *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!*, for local authority Dialogue Youth units in Scotland to use when consulting with young people (please see box below).

Every local authority area in Scotland has established a Dialogue Youth Unit. Dialogue Youth is dynamic partnership between Young Scot, COSLA, and the Scottish Executive, bringing together government and young people to modernise and sensitise the services that affect them. The *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!* Toolkit offers Dialogue Youth Units a menu of online and offline consultation mechanisms from which to choose from. These include:

- Offline events and seminars with online registration
- Young Citizens' E-Panels
- Voting Booths (offline and online)
- Surveys (offline and online)
- Discussion Forums (online)
- Focus Groups (offline and online)
- E-petitions for campaigning & lobbying
- SMS and email for voting and providing views and feedback

Four local authority Dialogue Youth units were involved in running in-depth consultation with young people aged 12–18 years for this consultation. The four areas involved in the in-depth consultation were:

- Dumfries & Galloway
- Dundee

- Highland
- North Ayrshire

Each area carried out activity online and offline, using the *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!* Toolkit and methodology.

The main body of this feedback report describes in detail the findings of the consultation, and a description of all activities undertaken at national and local level.

The Smoking in Public Places Consultation was carried out with the aim of making a positive contribution to the Scottish Executive's public consultation on Smoking in Public Places.

There are two clear objectives for this report:

- To convey the responses of young people to the main questions posed by the Scottish Executive's consultation on Smoking in Public Places.
- To determine any additional concerns, comments, and areas of interest amongst young people regarding Smoking in Public Places.

This report is split into four main parts. Part One is an overview of the approach and research methodology used to carry out the consultation. Part Two gives a more detailed breakdown of who took part in the consultation, including demographic information. Part Three presents an analysis of the feedback and responses from young people during the consultation. Finally, Part Four provides a summary of the feedback received and identifies common themes and conclusions. Due to the methodology used to deliver the consultation, each part of the report examines the feedback at national and local level respectively.

PART 1

HOW WAS THE CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT?

National Level

At national level there was a sustained and extensive programme of promotion and awareness-raising activities during the summer period in the lead up to the main implementation stage of the consultation.

The programme began with a media launch with young people taking part in a 'Questions & Answers' session with Deputy Minister for Health, Tom McCabe MSP. The event was held in Kilwinning, North Ayrshire on 15th June, hosted by North Ayrshire Council Leader, Councillor Peter McNamara, and also attended by Martin Raymond, Head of Public Affairs for NHS Health Scotland. Young people from North Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway took part in the event, and also got the chance to be the first young people to fill in the online survey through Young Scot's Sp@ce E-Roadshow. At this launch event the Minister also took the time to talk to the young people in depth about their views on smoking in public places. The event received local and national media coverage and offered a great starting point for young people to have their say on the topic.

The launch event was followed by substantial articles in Young Scot magazine, which was distributed with the Daily Record in the first week of July. The magazine has a circulation of over 650,000 copies and an estimated readership of 1.1million. Additional copies of the magazine were distributed to youth groups, as well as being on display in Young Scot discount partner outlets such as McDonald's; Odeon cinemas; KFC and Megabowl, ensuring a wide reach to young people in a variety of settings. Articles were also published on the national youth information portal for Scotland - www.youngscot.org - which currently receives on average over 2m hits each month. These articles included a link to the consultation materials on *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!*, and also to the Scottish Executive website.

Various "Vote of the Day" topics related to smoking in public places were run on www.youngscot.org, primarily to introduce young people to the topic and stimulate interest (See Appendix B).

The topic was also posted, along with FAQ's, on to the national Young Scot online discussion board on *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!*, with some debate already taking place amongst board members. A survey, which was adapted from the Scottish Executive's response form, was also developed and placed online on the *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!* pages. A vote was also run on the *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!* pages throughout the consultation. All materials were developed in partnership with NHS Health Scotland.

Local Level

Four local authority Dialogue Youth units ran in-depth consultation exercises with young people aged 12–18 years. The four areas involved in the in-depth consultation were:

- ❑ Dundee
- ❑ Highland
- ❑ North Ayrshire
- ❑ Dumfries & Galloway

Each area carried out mixed activity, both online and offline, using the Young Scot Loud + Clear Toolkit and methodology. Core materials, for use by all four local projects, were developed by Young Scot at national level in partnership with NHS Health Scotland to ensure consistency in the local activities. These materials included:

- ❑ A set of 'Frequently Asked Questions'.
- ❑ A single fact sheet, with some core information about the topic.
- ❑ A survey questionnaire – for use both online and offline - which was adapted from the response form being used by the Scottish Executive.
- ❑ A single "Vote!" - this included a question and four option answers.
- ❑ An outline format for any events held - adapted from Scottish Civic Forum consultation events being carried out across Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Executive, to ensure consistency of approach across all consultation events being held.

Dundee

Dundee Dialogue Youth unit consulted with young people across Dundee using a variety of offline and online methods.

Youth Consultation stalls were held at local festivals during August, generating lots of interest and feedback from young people. These included:

- ❑ Hilltown Festival
- ❑ Youth & Childrens' Work Resource Fayre - Caird Hall + City Square
- ❑ Mid Craigie /Linlathen Festival

Offline surveys were printed and distributed to young people through a variety of venues and groups, including to 10 secondary schools, 14 libraries, and 25 community centres and youth projects across Dundee. These included:

- ❑ Youth Work Strategic Group
- ❑ Youth Information Advisory Group
- ❑ Youth Information Workers
- ❑ The Corner (young peoples' health and information project)
- ❑ Xplore (social inclusion partnership youth project)
- ❑ Young Carers Partnership

'Email alerts' were sent out to 80 young people who signed up to receive information on the Smoking in Public Places Consultation through the Dundee local pages of the Young Scot website. Responses were collected from young people through the local pages of the website using an online survey, which was identical to the offline questionnaire. Responses were collected through an online vote to a single question "Should smoking in public places be banned?".

A group of six young people also participated in an online discussion forum. This was a short session designed to get anecdotal input and stimulate discussion.

Highland

Firstly, Highland Dialogue Youth unit arranged a meeting with their local Smoking Cessation Officer to put forward ideas about how best to carry out the consultation. It became apparent after discussing the ideas with health staff that had experience of working with young people on smoking issues, that the consultation would focus on the following methods:

- ❑ Production of a young people friendly leaflet style survey for distribution at youth events, in schools, and to youth groups.
- ❑ Formulating a workshop to explore issues surrounding the consultation and a proposed ban.
- ❑ Having a one-day event in Inverness at a shopping centre, handing out the leaflet/ survey for young people to fill in.

It was decided to create a young people's leaflet version of the Scottish Executive's survey to collect young people's views. The questions were adapted to make them more 'young person friendly' and some questions were added. Four front covers were designed and taken into schools and asked pupils for feedback. The most popular design was then put into action by the council's graphics department. The surveys were then sent out to youth workers from each area of Highland and distributed to pupil councils in every Highland secondary school. The leaflet was also handed out at various youth events attended by Dialogue Youth staff. These included:

- ❑ Youth Forum meetings
- ❑ Youth Voice events (Sabhal Mor Ostaig in Skye)
- ❑ Youth Day in Ross and Cromarty
- ❑ Event at Eastgate shopping Centre, Inverness.

Dialogue Youth staff designed an interactive workshop which initially got young people to explore why the government were having a consultation, then moved on to discuss passive smoking, public places and the effects having a ban or not having a ban might have. The workshop was carried out at a 'Celebration of Youth' event in Ross and Cromarty where young people filled out surveys after the workshop, and also at a Youth Forum AGM where flip charts were used to gather views and get young people to write down ideas.

Offline methods were augmented by an online survey, vote, discussion forum, and email response tool on the Highland local *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!* pages of the Young Scot website allowing young people to respond to the consultation.

A display board was designed and printed to advertise and promote the consultation day which was held at Eastgate Shopping Centre in Inverness, to collect responses from young people. Dialogue Youth staff manned the stall on the day and encouraged young people to put forward their opinions and views, and fill in surveys.

North Ayrshire

North Ayrshire Dialogue Youth implemented a variety of online and offline consultation mechanisms in order to carry out the consultation. Activities included:

- ❑ Postcard ballots
- ❑ Outreach work on the street
- ❑ Events/Festivals
- ❑ Online consultation on Young Scot Website
- ❑ Recorded interviews
- ❑ Meetings
- ❑ Presentations

Young Scot branded postcard surveys and ballot boxes were designed, printed and distributed to seven youth centres and youth information points where young people could anonymously complete the cards and post them in ballot boxes.

Outreach work was undertaken by youth workers and the Ardrossan Young Scot 'Hack Pack' team, which is a group of young web-journalists who write articles for the Young Scot website. This involved the young people taking the postcards out onto the streets to consult with other young people.

The post cards were also used at various events with assistance from young people (Young Scot volunteers). For example, a consultation event was held at the Marymass Festival which

was supported by the Young Scot E-Roadshow providing internet access and generating substantial interest amongst young people.

The main focus of the consultation in North Ayrshire involved the use of postcard ballots. In total, over 600 young people voted in the postcard ballot.

The offline activity was augmented by an online survey, vote, discussion forum, and email response tool on the North Ayrshire local *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!* pages of the Young Scot portal. These online tools were advertised through posters being distributed to thirty locations including local secondary schools for the start of term in August.

North Ayrshire Dialogue Youth unit have also been invited to facilitate a workshop session at the North Ayrshire Schools Tobacco Project event, being held at Seamill Hydro on 4th of October.

Meetings were arranged with various organisations relating to smoking and health, including the local Smoking Cessation Officer and the Schools Tobacco Project who were keen to get involved with the consultation and provided leaflets and other resources for use locally.

Dumfries and Galloway

Firstly, the consultation was discussed at the Youth Strategy Executive Meeting to ask members of the group if any of them would be interested in assisting with this piece of work. Those who were interested, but could not commit to regular meetings, still expressed an interest and they were sent ten questionnaires – one to complete themselves and nine for their friends or people in their school to complete and return.

Dumfries and Galloway Dialogue Youth decided a quick and easy way to gather the views of young people would be to have a postcard response. The prompt, “Smoking In Public Places.....” was placed on postcards to distribute to young people at schools and events across the region to encourage them to give their views.

It was decided that other ways to engage young people would be to hold events with a fun day/healthy living type appeal. It was agreed to hold one in Dumfries and one in Stranraer,

targeting the two big towns across the region. These fun days included various activities for young people to participate in, such as inflatables, salsa dancing, and equipment to test people's overall fitness levels. There was also a 'dry bar', with smoking related names for the drinks served.

It was decided, to keep in line with the consultation, that young people would fill out a postcard to get into the event, which was free, and also to hold focus groups with questionnaires at the event, for young people to fill out both online and offline.

It was negotiated with four schools across the region to hold focus groups with young people ranging from 12 – 16 years old. The focus groups were facilitated by a worker from the Youth Issues Unit and the Smoking Cessation Officer for Dumfries and Galloway. There were questionnaires for young people to fill out and then a discussion was held on what their views were on smoking in public places. A vote was also taken at the start of the group to ask young people whether they thought there should be a ban, and then after the discussion another vote was taken to see if anyone had changed their mind. It was also arranged to hold focus groups in two local community groups in Moffat and Newton Stewart, two small towns at opposite ends of the region.

It was recognised that there was a need to look at ways of targeting the upper end of the age range. Dumfries and Galloway College was used to get postcards and questionnaires completed and to hold mini focus groups on the consultation topic.

Dialogue Youth staff also travelled across the region to speak with young people. They visited skate parks, local youth groups, summer events, pubs, cafes and the local Youth Enquiry Service. They were also able to negotiate with staff to distribute postcards in schools who were not running focus groups.

Dumfries and Galloway Dialogue Youth recorded video footage from various events and visits and are currently putting together a video of young people speaking about the consultation. The material is currently being edited, and will be available in the near future.

PART 2

WHO TOOK PART?

This section provides a breakdown of known information on the people who took part in the consultation, at national and local level.

National Level

Consulted 770 young people

At national level there was a questionnaire on the *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!* section of the Young Scot website, which produced 356 completed surveys from young people, and collected a range of demographic information (please see breakdown below).

Gender Breakdown:

Female: 64%

Male: 35%

(Note: approx. 1% did not respond)

Age Breakdown:

Under 12 years: 7%

12-15 years: 52%

16-18 years: 30%

19-26 years: 9%

Over 26 years: 1%

(Note: approx. 1% did not respond)

There was a good demographic mix of respondents in terms of gender and age. The questionnaires were available 24 hours per day online to young people across the whole of Scotland (please see breakdown below). This ensured geographic diversity and inclusion.

Local Authority	No. of Responses
Aberdeen	2
Aberdeenshire	8
Angus	2
Argyll & Bute	3
Dumfries & Galloway	6
Dundee	114
East Lothian	1
East Renfrewshire	1
Edinburgh	37
Falkirk	3
Fife	39
Glasgow	7
Highland	7
Inverclyde	20
Midlothian	1
Moray	2
North Ayrshire	16
North Lanarkshire	5
Perth & Kinross	3
Renfrewshire	1
Scottish Borders	1
Shetland	3
South Ayrshire	3
South Lanarkshire	29
Western Isles	1
West Lothian	1
England (Liverpool)	1
International (Sweden & USA)	3

The questionnaire also asked respondents whether they smoked, with 14% saying “yes”, 83% saying “no”, and approximately 2% not responding.

The 'Votes of the day' which were run on the front page of the Young Scot website generated 321 responses, with a further 93 young people casting votes in the online ballot on the *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!* pages of the website.

Local Level

As already mentioned, the local consultation activity was implemented using a wide range of online and offline methods to ensure that it involved as many young people as possible in the consultation. As a result, a range of demographic data was collected which is unique to each area. The following section describes 'who took part' in the consultation in the four local authority areas participating in the consultation.

Dundee

Consulted 1001 young people

Dundee Dialogue Youth Unit carried out the consultation using largely using online and offline questionnaires, and as a result collected a great deal of demographic information (please see breakdown below). In total the consultation generated **1001 completed surveys** from young people. 140 surveys were completed online, and 861 offline.

Gender Breakdown:

Female: 46%

Male: 54%

Age Breakdown:

Under 12 years: 5%

12-15 years: 68%

16-18 years: 22%

19-26 years: 4%

The demographic mix of respondents was quite even both in terms of gender and age. The questionnaires were distributed throughout the Dundee region to ensure geographic diversity, and 91% of respondents lived in the city of Dundee.

The questionnaire also asked respondents whether they smoked, with 13% saying “yes”, 85% saying “no”, and 2% not responding.

Highland

Consulted 363 young people

Highland Dialogue Youth unit carried out the consultation largely using offline questionnaires, and as a result collected a great deal of demographic information (please see breakdown below). In total the consultation generated 363 completed surveys from young people.

Gender Breakdown:

Female: 51%

Male: 49%

Age Breakdown:

12-15 years: 52%

16-18 years: 20%

(Note: approximately 28% did not respond)

100 responses were also collected from young people under 12 years in Highland area through primary schools.

The questionnaire also asked respondents whether they smoked, with 14% saying “yes”, and 86% saying “no”.

North Ayrshire

Consulted 582 young people

North Ayrshire Dialogue Youth used primarily a postcard ballot to collect responses from young people, and as a result did not collect demographic information such as gender and age of respondents.

In total, 582 young people took part in the postcard ballot across a wide geographical spread of the region, at a variety of events to attract as many young people as possible. The following details are a breakdown of where the responses were collected (please see breakdown below).

Post boxes:

The Caley Centre, Stevenston	37
SNAP, Saltcoats	29
Ardrossan Youth Hut, Ardrossan	63
Walker Hall, Kilbirnie	13
High School, Isle of Arran	50

Out reach work:

Boutreehill, Irvine	43
Hack Pack Team, Ardrossan	52

Events:

Open Day, James Watt College	41
Marymass Event	178
Fresher Week, James Watt College	76

Dumfries and Galloway

Consulted 1321 young people

Dumfries and Galloway Dialogue Youth unit consulted with 1150 young people across the region using postcards to record the responses of young people. There were 1000 postcards

completed by young people aged between 12–18 years, and 150 from young people between the ages of 19 – 24 years.

This information was collected through the postcards, which were distributed and collected during the consultation. The postcards collected information on age and gender of the respondents (please see breakdown below).

Gender Breakdown:

Female: 50%

Male: 50%

Age Breakdown:

12-15 years: 53%

16-18 years: 47%

The demographic mix of respondents is quite even both in terms of gender and age. The postcards were also distributed evenly within the region to ensure geographic diversity, but exact geographical data was not collected.

171 questionnaires were also collected. The questionnaires were completed by a good demographic mix in terms of age and gender (please see breakdown below).

Gender Breakdown:

Female: 59%

Male: 50%

(Note: approximately 1% did not respond)

Age breakdown:

12 – 15 years: 46%

16 – 18 years: 46%

(Note: approximately 8% did not respond)

The questionnaire asked respondents whether they smoked, with 2% saying “yes”, and 98% saying “no”.

The questionnaires have also been separated into the responses from focus groups in schools and in those from community-based groups (please see breakdown below).

Secondary Schools:

Dalbeattie High School (8 Focus Groups) = 136

Dumfries High School (1 Focus Group) = 17

Stranraer Academy (2 Focus Groups) = 40

Langholm Academy (2 Focus Groups) = 32

Other:

Moffat Youth Group (1 Focus Group) = 5

The Hut (2 Focus Groups) = 10

Dumfries and Galloway College = 57

Dumfries and Stranraer Fun Days = 25

PART 3

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

This section provides a more detailed view of the feedback collected from young people in response to the consultation. In keeping with the other sections of the report, it is split into sub-sections explaining the feedback from each of the local authority areas, and their in-depth consultations with young people.

National Level

At national level there was a questionnaire on the *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!* section of the Young Scot website, which produced 356 completed surveys from young people. The online votes which ran on the Young Scot website also generated 414 responses from young people. Therefore the national level activity of the consultation received **770 responses from young people**. This section details the feedback and responses from the young people.

The following section is a breakdown of the responses from young people to the questions posed in the online questionnaire:

Do you think further action needs to be taken to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke?

81% answered "Yes"

7% answered "No"

10% answered "Don't Know"

(Note: approximately 2% did not respond)

The comments from young people on this question were largely in favour of further action, with a range of comments being made regarding negative affects on health, unpleasant smell of smoke, and the need for a ban (please see examples below).

“People should not have to be subjected to the harmful effects of passive smoking – if people want to smoke that is their decision, but no one else should have to suffer from the harmful effects that are linked with smoking.”

“Smoking in public places should be banned, as it affects people of all ages.”

Would you support a new law that would make public places smoke-free?

64% answered “Yes”

15% answered “No”

6% answered “Don’t Know”

(Note: approximately 15% did not respond)

In general the young people who responded appear to be in favour of a new law banning smoking in public places. Comments on this question were generally in favour of the law, but some comments did point to potential problems with introducing it (please see examples below).

“If it improves the health of the nation I am all for it. Hopefully it will free up NHS resources and waiting lists will be cut.”

“I would be 100% behind it in principle and as good practice. Although I think there should be the option for pubs/restaurants to allow smoking but they should put a sign up to denote that this is the case. Therefore people know what to expect.”

“If smoking is banned I think it will cause a lot of problems, particularly with loitering in the streets, especially outside pubs/bars/nightclubs, which I believe that due to alcohol and having to smoke outside will cause even more violence.”

“Only to a certain extent. Banning people from smoking at all in public places, especially workplaces may lead to them smoking more at home putting children more at risk.”

If a law was introduced, do you think there should be some places where smoking should be allowed?

68% answered "Yes"

21% answered "No"

10% answered "Don't Know"

(Note: approximately 1% did not respond)

The majority of respondents believed that there should be somewhere for people to smoke, with comments focusing on the rights of smokers and the possibility of licensing some pubs to cater for smoking (please see examples below).

"Smoking is a personal choice and people who smoke still should be allowed in certain places, smoking is addictive and can be very hard to give up so we shouldn't totally forget about the people who smoke."

"I think they should have special pubs etc which allow smoking, a place where everybody who smokes can go."

If a law wasn't introduced, what more could be done to encourage businesses to become smoke-free or to provide smoke-free areas?

Young people had a number of suggestions, with three common themes emerging: providing more information for businesses and employees; incentive schemes to encourage businesses; and fines to enforce a new law (please see examples below).

"Make businesses more aware of the health hazards of smoking, not enough is being done to make people aware of the dangers."

"Keep telling people how dangerous smoking is. Talk to people at a young age so as they grow older they will understand the dangers."

"Rewards from the government for businesses who take the non-smoking policy up."

“Increase business tax by 1% then offer a 1% reduction to companies that ban smoking or provide suitable smoking rooms.”

“If nothing is done fine them. The money would go to the NHS to pay for the operations performed because of smoking.”

What else do you think can be done to reduce second-hand smoke?

Young people made a range of comments in response to this question, with many focusing on the need to ban smoking near children, and advocating the possibility of increasing the cost of cigarettes to discourage smokers (please see examples below).

“I think there should be measures governing smoking near children – even in private – but this would be a tricky one!”

“Stop all smoking in public places, make cigarettes more expensive to discourage smokers, provide more support for people quitting smoking.”

“Information is probably the only way (except laws). Second-hand smoke is best reduced by reducing the number of smokers, so lower prices on products that help you stop smoking and better control of under-age persons buying tobacco might be a start.”

Please tell us what else you think about smoking in public places...

Young people made a range of comments, overwhelmingly in support of banning smoking in public places, with a number people calling for a total smoking ban. Other comments included the need to enforce a new law, and warning of potential problems (please see examples below).

“Non-smokers should not have to put up with people smoking around them who are endangering themselves and those around them.”

"I think on transport or in confined spaces it should be banned. However there should be more help and support for people wanting to give up smoking, and educate young people not to start in the first place."

"I would prefer to see a total ban. I don't like smoking areas and think providing smoking rooms would expose smokers to higher levels of harmful smoke."

"I think if such a law (no smoking in public places) was introduced then people should be fined and upon their third time getting caught should be jailed for a maximum of 3 years."

"I don't think there should be a ban on smoking in public places outright to avoid concentrating their habit in one place, for example at home, which would make passive smoking worse for any possible family."

As mentioned previously, there were 3 votes run on the Young Scot website as part of the consultation, generating the following response:

The Irish ban smoking in workplaces - should Scotland follow their lead?

(ran on the front page of the Young Scot website between 29th-30th March 2004)

Response:

Definitely. Why should non-smokers have to breathe in all the smoke?	45%
No. People should be allowed to smoke if they want	37%
It's a good idea but would never work in Scotland - too hard to enforce the rule	18%
Total votes	145

Should smoking be banned in public places?

(ran on the front page of the Young Scot website between 15th-26th June 2004)

Response:

It should be banned in public places	45%
It should be banned full stop!	28%
No, it shouldn't be banned. People should be allowed to smoke where they want	27%
Total votes	176

Should smoking in public places (e.g. workplaces, public transport) be banned?

(ran on the Young Scot: Loud + Clear! pages of the website between 1st July – 30th September 2004)

Response:

I hate smelling like an ashtray...ban it	73%
They need somewhere for a fag...ban it in some places	14%
Smoking doesn't bother me...don't ban it	13%
Dunno...I don't think it affects me	0%
Total votes	93

The votes cast by young people on the national pages of the Young Scot website show that most young people are in favour of banning smoking in public places.

Local Level

As already mentioned, the local consultation activity was implemented using a wide range of online and offline methods to ensure that it involved as many young people as possible in the consultation. As a result, a range of responses and feedback were collected which all provide valuable input to the consultation but are not necessarily easy to correlate. The following section describes 'what was said' by young people who took part in the consultation in the four local authority areas participating in the consultation.

Dundee

The single, online vote, which ran on the Dundee homepage for four weeks, is a good reflection of the general opinion of the young people who took part in the survey in the Dundee area. The question (please see below), generated the following response.

Should smoking in public places (e.g. workplaces, public transport) be banned?

Response	Respondents (%)
I hate smelling like an ashtray...ban it	64
They need somewhere for a fag...ban it in some places	25
Smoking doesn't bother me...don't ban it	7
Dunno...I don't think it affects me	4

These results show that **89% of young people** in Dundee would favour a ban of some sort. Many young people mentioned the health concerns linked with smoking, how it made their clothes and hair smell and how being around smoke affected conditions such as asthma. "It's horrible" and "disgusting" were common statements. Many felt that more support should be in place to help smokers quit and recognised the fact that smoking is an addiction.

There was a questionnaire on the *Young Scot: Loud + Clear!* section of the Dundee local pages of the Young Scot website. As mentioned earlier, this questionnaire was also delivered offline in a range of venues and events. This section details the feedback and responses from the young people (Please see Appendix E).

Do you think further action needs to be taken to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke?

73% answered "Yes"

9% answered "No"

13% answered "Don't Know"

(Note: approximately 5% did not respond)

The comments from young people on this question were hugely in favour of further action, with a range of comments being made mostly regarding the negative impact on health, and the smell of smoke (please see examples below).

“ I think that further action needs to be taken because some bars and restaurants have non-smoking areas but the smoke still travels to the non-smoking areas and the whole bar/restaurant smells of it..”

“I think that people should not smoke in public places due to passive smoking and can be a danger to other people’s health.”

Would you support a new law that would make public places smoke-free?

71% answered “Yes”

13% answered “No”

10% answered “Don’t Know”

(Note: approximately 6% did not respond)

The young people who responded were generally in favour of a new law banning smoking in public places. Comments on this question were generally in favour of the law, many supporting banning smoking altogether whilst other would have smoking areas (please see examples below).

“I would like most of Dundee smoke free but would have some places for the smokers and try to make them stop so Dundee is smoke free.”

“There should definitely be smoke-free public places, but I believe it is important to implement any such policies in a way which is respectful to the viewpoints of smokers and non-smokers alike.”

“I want to ban it altogether.”

If a law was introduced, do you think there should be some places where smoking should be allowed?

64% answered “Yes”

20% answered “No”

7% answered "Don't Know"

(Note: approximately 9% did not respond)

The vast majority of respondents believed that there should be somewhere for people to smoke, with many comments highlighting the rights of smokers and the need for good ventilation (please see examples below).

"I feel that some bars should be allowed to be smoking areas, but I feel that this should be limited so people can choose whether to go to a smoking bar or a non-smoking bar. I feel this can be done by bars having to apply for licences for smoking."

"I think there should be certain places where smokers are separated from non-smokers."

"They should be allowed in places with air extractors."

If a law wasn't introduced, what more could be done to encourage businesses to become smoke-free or to provide smoke-free areas?

Young people had a number of suggestions in response to this question, including providing more information for businesses and employees, incentive schemes to encourage businesses, and raising the age limit to buy cigarettes (please see examples below).

"The government should provide grants to businesses to help them set up no smoking areas."

"Make an older age law."

"Make more adverts and signs to let people know the dangers of smoking."

"Make a law to ensure extractor fans must be on in smoking areas and into the no smoking areas."

What else do you think can be done to reduce second-hand smoke?

Young people made a range of comments, including more information and high profile campaigns to encourage people to stop smoking (please see examples below).

“More education at school about it.”

“More adverts, information that will hit people and make them take this on board. Classes to help smokers give up. Make places all smoke free and difficult for people to smoke in places that aren’t outside.”

“When banned in public places, fines should be introduced to discourage smokers. If smokers were given real evidence of the danger to others such as their children the message will certainly get through.”

“Maybe a national celebrity campaign with idols for young people talking about the dangers of smoking, also with regards to kissing no one wants to kiss an ashtray. Also how it will affect things pertinent to youth – skin, sperm count, fertility.”

Please tell us what else you think about smoking in public places...

Young people made a range of comments, largely in support of banning smoking in public places with some very strong comments, but there are also a number of comments which are sympathetic to people who do smoke. Other comments relate to the mess left by cigarette ends in public places (please see examples below).

“Smoking in public places is ignorant. If smokers want to damage their own health, that’s fine, but its not right that they should be allowed to potentially damage other people’s health without their consent.”

“It is not ideal but it will take a lot more than one law to change things.”

“It makes Dundee look a mess with all the cig stubs lying around.”

"I think it is disgusting because there are cigarette ends everywhere, on buses, on streets, and I think it is horrible so stop it."

Highland

As mentioned earlier in the report, Highland Dialogue Youth amended the questionnaire and had surveys completed by young people in a leaflet format. The survey was completed in schools and at events, producing 363 completed surveys from young people. This section details the feedback and responses from the young people.

Do you think further action needs to be taken to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke?

77% answered "Yes"

17% answered "No"

0% answered "Don't Know"

(Note: approximately 6% did not respond)

Respondents were massively in favour of further action and comments focused on the negative affect of passive smoking (please see examples below).

"With the high numbers of lung cancer sufferers in the country I think it would be ridiculous not to act against second hand smoke."

"It is bad for others. People who don't smoke shouldn't have to put up with the consequences of passive smoking."

Has passive smoking ever affected you?

33% answered "Yes"

39% answered "No"

(Note: approximately 28% did not respond)

A great deal of respondents did not answer this question, but those who did offered a number of comments, again focusing on the impact on health and unpleasant smells (please see examples below).

"I'm asthmatic and it affects me all the time."

"Not yet but it makes my clothes smell if someone is smoking."

Would you support a new law that would make public places smoke-free?

53% answered "Yes"

21% answered "No"

21% answered "Don't Know"

(Note: approximately 5% did not respond)

There was quite a split of opinion on this question in comparison to the results in other areas, though the majority of respondents were in favour of a ban and comments focused on the health impacts. There were also a number of comments against a ban, focusing on the right of people to smoke (please see examples below).

"Such a law has been introduced in Ireland and is working well, so I would definitely like to see one here."

"I have the right to go into a public place without breathing in other people's smoke!!!"

"It is people's right to smoke if they wish to as long as it's not in direction towards children."

"I think this is too harsh, we live in democracy where people have rights. There should be stricter subdivisions of premises into smoking and non-smoking instead."

If a law was introduced, do you think there should be some places where smoking should be allowed?

66% answered "Yes"

19% answered "No"

10% answered "Don't Know"

(Note: approximately 5% did not respond)

The vast majority of respondents were in favour of having places where smoking is allowed, with comments highlighting the need to cater for those addicted to smoking (please see examples below).

"I don't think suddenly putting too much pressure on a smoker would create a very positive effect."

"I think it would make sense if there were some places where smoking was allowed: as long as people have the choice to go to a non-smoking place."

If a law wasn't introduced, what more could be done to encourage businesses to become more smoke-free?

Young people had a number of suggestions, which were generally similar to the comments in the national results - providing more information for businesses and employees, incentive schemes to encourage businesses, and fines to enforce a new law (please see examples below).

"They could reward companies that have a no smoking policy"

"Penalties and fines should be given out if the law is not obeyed."

What else do you think can be done to reduce second-hand smoke?

Young people made a range of comments, with many focusing on increasing the cost of cigarettes to discourage smokers, and providing separate areas for people to smoke in (please see examples below).

“Put cigarette prices up”

“Give people who smoke a place to smoke in.”

“If there wasn’t a ban on smoking made regulations should then be improved on things like ventilation.”

Please tell us what else you think about smoking in public places...

Young people made a range of comments, mostly in support of banning smoking in public places. Other comments included the need to enforce a new law, and warning of potential problems (please see examples below).

“Smoking should be banned altogether as it is disgusting, prices should be raised to £10 for a small pack.”

“I think it is wrong if people want to smoke they should in there own house not in public places.”

North Ayrshire

North Ayrshire Dialogue Youth collected 582 responses from young people through the postcard ballot. The postcard posed the simple question, *Where do you think smoking should be banned?* , and generated the following response.

Response	No. of Respondents (%)
Only in the workplace	55 (9%)
In the workplace, restaurants, malls & bars	174 (30%)

All indoor places	218 (37%)
Smoking in public places should not be banned	135 (23%)

The table shows that young people in North Ayrshire are split on the issue of smoking in public places, with almost a quarter of young people believing there should not be a ban. However, over two thirds of respondents were in favour of either a ban in all indoor places, or a ban in workplaces, restaurants, malls and bars.

Dumfries and Galloway

In general the view of young people in Dumfries and Galloway, expressed through the postcards and focus groups, was that there should be a smoking ban in public places.

The age group between 12 and 15 years old was most of the view that there should be a ban in public places. The young people who did not want a ban were ones that said it didn't bother them either way.

The age group between 16 and 18 years were quite varied, there was almost an equal amount who wanted a ban and who didn't however the majority wanted a ban in some public places but not everywhere.

A lot of young people are more than aware of the health implications of second hand smoke and feel, smokers included, that they no longer want their health needs to suffer. There were many suggestions of designated areas for smokers and non-smokers, although young people have said some businesses already operate this scheme and they do not feel a small partition is good enough. They were suggestions of separate rooms or even separate places for smokers and non-smokers. With this argument though many felt that smokers were being discriminated against as it would mean singling them out and after all smoking is an addiction for many people.

Other suggestions included more support from the Government, such as grants to businesses to encourage them to go smoke free and also more support given to smokers from the NHS to help people get over their addiction to tobacco. Over 350 young people who responded felt

smoking should be treated in the same way as drugs such as heroin, as it is just another addiction.

A big argument from the 16 – 18 yr olds consulted was that smoking should be banned in restaurants, however they were unsure of whether a ban should be enforced in places such as pubs and clubs. Their arguments for this was risks of drinks being spiked if people had to go outside to smoke or even people being effected by the Anti Social Behaviour Act if they are loitering outside a pub or club smoking.

The comments below are an example of those gathered from young people who took part in Focus Groups across the region.

“ Put a ban on smoking, I hate it” – Kathryn, 14, Stranraer
“Smoking in public places is fine by me” – Graham, 17, Dumfries
“I don’t mind it really” – Jade, 12, Dalbeattie
“There should be more places for people to smoke” – Ann, 18, Kirkconnel
“The Government should offer more support if they want a ban” - Kerry, 15, Moffat
“Smoking smells really bad” – Joanna, 13, Dumfries
“Passive smoking kills people” – John, 13, Stranraer

There were 171 offline questionnaires completed in Dumfries and Galloway. This section details the feedback and responses from the young people.

Do you think further action needs to be taken to reduce people’s exposure to second-hand smoke?

67% answered “Yes”

17% answered “No”

16% answered “Don’t Know”

The comments from young people on this question were in favour of further action, with a range of comments being made mostly regarding the negative impact on health (please see examples below).

"Don't think it's fair that people have to suffer with other folks smoke."

"More should be done."

Would you support a new law that would make public places smoke-free?

49% answered "Yes"

33% answered "No"

17% answered "Don't Know"

(Note: approximately 1% did not respond)

The response of young people was quite split on whether there should be a new law banning smoking in public places. Comments on this question were generally in favour of the law (please see examples below).

"I definitely think a new law banning smoking in public places should be enforced and put in place as soon as possible."

"Have separate areas because it is unfair if it is all non-smoking."

If a law was introduced, do you think there should be some places where smoking should be allowed?

75% answered "Yes"

15% answered "No"

6% answered "Don't Know"

(Note: approximately 4% did not respond)

The vast majority of respondents believed that there should be somewhere for people to smoke, with many comments highlighting the rights of smokers and the need for good ventilation (please see examples below).

“There are too many people addicted so they will have to go somewhere, if they are stopped, there will be riots.”

If a law wasn’t introduced, what more could be done to encourage businesses to become smoke-free or to provide smoke-free areas?

Young people had a number of suggestions in response to this question, including: passing law to force businesses to comply; and incentive schemes to encourage businesses (please see examples below).

“If it was a law then businesses don’t have a choice.”

“Incentives from the government.”

What else do you think can be done to reduce second-hand smoke?

Young people made a range of comments, including raising the price of cigarettes and banning cigarettes altogether (please see examples below).

“Put up prices, 10 £4.00, 20 £8.00.”

“Ban cigarettes.”

Please tell us what else you think about smoking in public places...

Young people made a range of comments, largely in support of banning smoking in public places with some very strong comments, but there are also a number of comments which are sympathetic to people who do smoke. Other comments relate to the unpleasant smell of cigarette smoke and (please see examples below).

“As a non-smoker I find it unpleasant but because there is such a high percentage of the population who smoke it would be difficult to ban it in public places.”

“I think there should be separate bars for smokers, the non-smokers have the choice whether they want to risk their health. But personally I think smoking should be banned in ALL public places.”

PART 4

WHAT WAS THE CONCLUSION?

The range of views, comments and concerns expressed in this report reflects the attitude of young people in Scotland towards this emotive issue. It is notable that there was a huge amount of young people involved in the consultation, demonstrating just how strongly many young people feel about it.

National Level

At national level the consultation received a fantastic response to the online survey which ran on the Loud + Clear section of the Young Scot website, with young people from a wide geographical spread completing the survey.

Young people were clearly of the opinion that further action is required to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke, and were largely in favour of banning smoking in public places. The response was strong and shows that young people are extremely worried about the negative impacts of smoking on their health. The findings showed empathy with people who are addicted to smoking, with most young people in favour of having some places where smoking is allowed.

If a law was not introduced, young people were largely in favour of providing further information and setting up incentive schemes to encourage businesses to become smoke-free or set up smoke-free areas. The strength of feeling on the topic was demonstrated by the support for enforcing such conditions by imposing fines and taxation on businesses that do not encourage such initiatives.

Young people provided a great deal of ideas and suggestions, with some clear themes emerging. The most notable suggestions, supported by a number of respondents, included banning smoking near children, raising the price of cigarettes, and banning smoking altogether.

Local Level

The consultation received a substantial response in the four local authority areas that ran in-depth consultations with young people. The main conclusions are very close to those of the national level activity, with some interesting additional comments and ideas.

Dundee

The vast majority of young people in Dundee are in favour of a ban on smoking in public places and further action to reduce the affects of second-hand smoke. Similarly to the national response, most young people believe there should still be some places where smoking is allowed.

There was a range of comments and suggestions, again mentioning the possibility of incentive schemes to encourage businesses to go smoke-free. There was also support for raising the age limit for buying tobacco, and a number of comments calling for more information and high profile campaigns highlighting the danger of smoking.

Highland

Young people in Highland largely believe that further action needs to be taken to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke, but just over half are in favour of a ban on smoking in public places. This figure is much lower than other areas, with a great deal of respondents concerned about the needs of smokers.

In line with other areas, the majority of respondents believe that there should be places where smoking is allowed. Similarly to other areas, a number of people suggested incentive schemes for businesses or financial penalties businesses provide smoke-free areas. Comments from young people in Highland also suggested incentives for businesses to improve ventilation to reduce second-hand smoke.

North Ayrshire

The consultation in North Ayrshire generated a lot of interest amongst young people across the region, with many young people feeling very strongly on this issue.

Similarly to the results in other areas, over two thirds of young people in North Ayrshire were in favour of banning smoking either in all indoor places, or in the workplace, restaurants, malls and bars.

Dumfries and Galloway

The overall view of young people in Dumfries and Galloway is that there should be a ban on smoking in public places, though the opinion was more split than in other areas. Most young people are aware of the health implications of second-hand smoke and feel that they no longer want their health to suffer.

There was a range of comments made by young people during the consultation, with ideas including government grants to businesses to encourage them to go smoke-free, and greater support to help smokers to quit.

Overall Conclusions

Taking into account the feedback from young people at national level and across the four local authority areas who participated, the following key conclusions are evident.

- ❑ **64%* of young people in Scotland believe smoking in public places should be banned.**
- ❑ 75%* of young people in Scotland believe more needs to be done to reduce the affects of second-hand smoke.
- ❑ 66%* of young people in Scotland believe that there should be some places where smoking is allowed.
- ❑ Many young people in Scotland have strong views on the issue of smoking and the negative affects on their health.

- Many young people in Scotland believe that the government should provide financial incentives to encourage businesses to become smoke-free or to provide smoke-free areas, and fine businesses that do not take such steps.
- Many young people in Scotland believe that more information, and support should be provided to highlight the dangers of smoking, and help people to quit.

*For accuracy please note that this figure is calculated using the results of fully completed surveys, and not the results from every response collected during the consultation, as not all data could be collated into one figure.



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